

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KINSHA 02973 311720Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 BIB-01 /049 W
-----311722Z 101170 /43
O 311615Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2702
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 2973

USIA FOR IOP, IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR CG
SUBJ:FOREIGN PRESS BRIEFING/CRITICISM

SUMMARY:

1. GOZ SUMMONED FOREIGN PRESS MAR 31 TO NOON BRIEFING IN WHICH
THEY WERE CRITICISED FOR INCORRECT REPORTING, AND WARNED THAT STRONGE
R
ACTION MIGHT BE NECESSARY, BUT ALSO DURING WHICH THEY WERE ABLE TO
QUESTION COL. ELUKI ABOUT SHABA DEVELOPMENTS. THIS WAS THE FIRST
TIME GOZ PRODUCED FAZ OFFICER FOR THESE KINSHASA BRIEFINGS. FOREIGN
PRESS ALSO SUBJECT OF VIRULENT VOICE OF ZAIRE RADIO COMMENTARY. END.

2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF BRIEFING:

-- ZAIRE PRESS AGENCY (AZAP) DELEGATE-GENERAL ELEBE, OFFICIAL GOZ
SPOKESMAN FOR SHABA FIGHTING, CHASTIZED FOREIGN PRESS FOR THE
"FANTASIES AND INCORRECT REPORTS" THEY HAD BEEN WRITING. "SOME
OF YOU ARE SYMPATHIZERS OF THE RUSSIAN-CUBAN COALITION," HE STATED.
ALL THE GOZ ASKS IS THAT "YOU BE A LITTLE MORE OBJECTIVE." THE
THREAT: "THE GOVT MIGHT REVIEW THE STATUS OF ALL THE FOREIGN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KINSHA 02973 311720Z

PRESS OR CALL BACK SOME OF THE JOURNALISTS FROM THE FRONT TO STOP
THIS POISONOUS CAMPAIGN." (COMMENT: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE,
THERE IS ONLY ONE JOURNALIST, A FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER, STILL IN
KOLWEZI.)

-- ELEBE SAID GEN BUMBA WOULD ATTEND THE APR 1 BRIEFING
(1800 HOURS) AND THAT GEN SINGA HAD REPLACED COL. ELUKI WHO
WOULD RESUME HIS NORMAL DUTIES IN KINSHASA.

-- IN RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S QUESTIONS, COL. ELUKI SAID:

(A) THE KATANGANS ARE 80 KMS WEST OF KOLWEZI, NOT 25 KMS AS REPORTED BY THE FOREIGN PRESS;

(B) MUTSHATSHA IS NOT PRESENTLY CONTROLLED BY FAZ "BECAUSE OF THE BLOODY FIGHTING" UNDERWAY IN THE VICINITY OF THE TOWN.

(C) KOLWEZI IS "CALM, VERY CALM" WITH EUROPEANS AND ZAIRIANS ALIKE "WORKING AS USUAL, THERE IS NO PANIC."

(D) THE INVADERS NUMBER "MORE OR LESS FIVE BATTALIONS," THAT IS "MORE OR LESS 5,000 MEN."

(E) THEY ARE ARMED "WITH ALL THE WEAPONS OF AN ORGANIZED ARMY, ALL THAT A WELL-ORGANIZED FORCE WOULD HAVE. THESE INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL AND UNIT WEAPONS, ROCKET LAUNCHERS, STALIN ORGANS, GROUND-TO-GROUND MISSILES -- "RATHER SOPHISTICATED MATERIAL" OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE.

(F) THE FAZ KNOWS MERCENARIES ARE INVOLVED BECAUSE ITS TROOPS, INCLUDING A FAZ COLONEL, HAD REPORTED SEEING WHITE-SKINNED EUROPEANS. AS TO FURTHER IDENTIFICATION, ELUKI STATED THE TROOPS REPORTED THE EUROPEANS WERE "SHORT WITH BLACK HAIR -- CUBANS, PORTUGUESE, PEOPLE LIKE THAT."

(G) THE INVADERS ARE USING TRANSPORT PLANES TO RESUPPLY MEN AND EQUIPMENT THROUGH KISENGE AND KAPANGA. HE DENIED THAT THE FAZ HAD LOST ANY AIRCRAFT.

(H) WHEN ASKED FOR MORE SPECIFICS AS TO WHAT TYPE OF MISSILES, ELUKI SAID "IT'S HARD TO SAY WAHT TYPE" THEY ARE, BUT THEN ADDED THAT THEY WERE "GROUND-TO-GROUND" VARIETY.

3. IN SHARPLY WORDED COMMENTARY BROADCAST DURING 1200Z NEWS, MAR 31, VOICE OF ZAIRE CARRIED FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN PRESS IN ZAIRE REPORTING OF SHABA ATTACK:
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KINSHA 02973 311720Z

"THERE HAVE BEEN MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN RADIO AND PRESS WHO HAVE COME TO ZAIRE TO REPORT ON THE EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST SHABA. FOR EACH OF THEIR REQUESTS, THE ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE TRIED TO SHOW AT EACH TIME THAT ZAIRE WAS A HOSPITABLE LAND. SOME OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OS THESE FOREIGN AGENCIES HAVE SHOWN BY THEIR LYING REPORTS AND THEIR OFFENSIVE SUPPOSITIONS, WHICH ARE WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION WHATEVER, THAT THEY HAVE ABUSED THE GOODWILL AND COMPREHENSION ACCORDED THEM BY THE ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES. INSTEAD OF BROADCASTING NEWS, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN MEDI
A
FABRICATE SITUATIONS. INSTEAD OF INFORMING, THEY SPREAD FANCIFUL AND ALARMING RUMORS ON EVENTS AND THEIR WRITINGS AND MESSAGES FOR ABROAD ARE AIMED PRIMARILY AT WEAKENING THE MORALE OF THE ZAIRIANS, DEFAMING THE FAZ, AND SOWING DISSENSION IN THE RANKS OF THE MPR, AND AT PROVOKING SKEPTICISM AMONG OUR ALLIES. FROM THIS DAY ON WE WANT ALL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN MEDIA WORKING IN ZAIRE TO KNOW THT WE CANNOT SELL OUR HOSPITALITY, WE CANNOT BARTER IT AGAINST DUPERIE AND AGAINST INFAMOUS STATEMENTS. ALL OF THE MILITANTS OF THE MPR KNOW FULL WELL THAT ZAIRE IS BEING ATTACKED. THEY ALSO

KNOW THAT THIER ARMED FORCES ARE AT THE FRONT FIGHTING AGAINST THE
AGGRESSORS AND OTHER MERCENARIES WHO HAVE VIOLATED THE INTEGRITY
OF OUR TERRITORY. IT IS NOT AT THIS TIME THAT WECAN TOLERATE
THAT ANY ADVENTURER CAN HAPPILY INDULGE HIMSELF IN SLANDEROUS
AND CAPRICIOUS REPORTS TO BREAK THE MORALE OF THE MILITANTS OF
THE MPR."
CUTLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INFORMATION MEDIA, JOURNALISTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA02973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770110-1090
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977034/aaaaacpb.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bcb0d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3047965
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN PRESS BRIEFING/CRITICISM SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, CG
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bcb0d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009